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THE COMIC READER

Number 128 • March 1976

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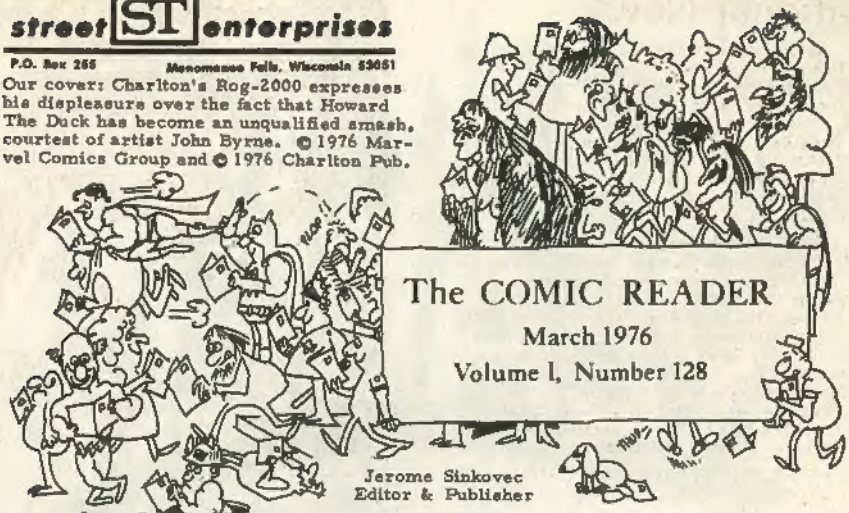
Our cover: Charlton's Rog-2000 expresses his displeasure over the fact that Howard The Duck has become an unqualified smash, courtest of artist John Byrne. © 1976 Marvel Comics Group and © 1976 Charlton Pub.



The COMIC READER

March 1976

Volume I, Number 128

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National News

What might be termed as a surprising development occurred January 19, 1976 as Carmine Infantino and National Periodical Publications came to a mutual parting of the ways. Sol Harrison has taken over as the new President with Jenette Kahn, publisher of DYNAMITE magazine has been named new Publisher. No massive changes are expected, but obviously some interesting developments will occur.

1963 saw the reintroduction of the 1940s DC team, the Justice Society of America. 1973 featured the establishment of a new group of heroes consisting of Quality's '40s heroes, the Freedom Fighters. In 1976, the 14th annual team-up of the JLA and the JSA will cover three issues and introduce a new team -- the Fawcett heroes! Included will be Spy Smasher, Bullet Man, Bullet Girl, Ibis the Invincible, Mr. Scarlet and Pinky. Story will be by E. Nelson Bridwell with dialogue by Martin Pasko.

STAR SPANGLED WAR STORIES has been made a bi-monthly, starting with issue #200.

Keith Giffen has pencilled an issue of WORLD'S FINEST and may take over as regular artist. Marty Pasko is writing two issues of the book.

Hercules is preparing for his showdown with Ares in HERCULES UNBOUND. Issue #5 will somehow link Hercules' time with Kamandi's milieu.

Nelson Bridwell has written a KRYPTO story for the back-up in ACTION COMICS.

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MISTER MIRACLE was announced as a new book on the letter page of FIRST ISSUE SPECIAL #13, to be done by Joe Orlando, Marty Pasko, Ric Estrada and Joe Staton.

Joe Kubert is said to be working on at least two new projects that he will edit and either write or write and draw.

An upcoming issue of WORLD'S FINEST will feature Superman and Batman in the bottle city of Kandor. Another issue will guest star Gold of the Metal Men.

The fifth issue of DC SUPER STARS which will feature The Flash, will include a Golden Age Flash story redrawn by Rico Rival.

Al Milgrom has done the art over Ric Estrada layouts for an issue of BLACKHAWK.

Mike Royer is inking an issue of PLASTIC MAN. Look for Plas to fight such foes as Meat By-Product, Col. Cool, The Snuffer and Rice O'Rooney, the San Francisco Threat.

Jack Abel is inking an issue of RICHARD DRAGON, KUNG FU FIGHTER.

Curt Swan is drawing a Batgirl-Robin team-up story for BATMAN FAMILY in which they face The Huntress and The Sportsmaster, villains of Earth II.

"Superman, 7' 2" and Still Growing" is the title of an upcoming SUPERMAN story. You go figure.

Riddle me this? What green-costumed masked villain will be returning to BATMAN via a David V. Reed script? Clue: It's not Frank Gorshin!

Marvel News

RETURN OF THE GODS, Jack Kirby's new book, has been retitled THE ETERNALS to avoid conflicts with DC's RETURN OF THE NEW GODS. in FIRST ISSUE SPECIAL.

TORPEDO, the man with a mission from DAREDEVIL, will be getting a two issue try-out in MARVEL SPOTLIGHT. The WARRORS THREE book has been indefinitely postponed. The TORPEDO book will be by DD artist Bob Brown and writer Marv Wolfman.

The Black Panther will be getting a new costume.

THE INVADERS has gone back to monthly publication.

With this month's issues, CONAN THE BARBARIAN, THE DEFENDERS, KA-ZAR and THE INHUMANS will be going to 30¢. This is a test and only these books are involved. Should sales be affected adversely, the books will revert to 25¢. To repeat, this is only a test.

DOC SAVAGE will be going to at least five issues while awaiting sales reports.

Chris Claremont has left his staff position at Marvel and Jim Shooter is replacing him as associate editor.

NOVA is a monthly book that will appear in June. Rich Buckler may take over the art with the third issue.

John Buscema is doing an issue of DAREDEVIL.

Barry Smith, Herb Trimpe and John Romita are joining forces to ink Jack Kirby's CAPTAIN AMERICA BICENTENNIAL TREASURY. Smith's inks are said to look very interesting.

Len Wein and Bob Brown are collaborating on a new series about a group of losers who have nothing to live for -- so Destiny rounds them up and gives them something to die for.

A future two month period will feature a complicated bit of character crossover. An issue of GHOST RIDER will feature the kidnapping of Karen Page and DAREDEVIL goes after her in his own book. The trail leads to that month's IRON MAN, continues to the following month's DAREDEVIL, which will be scripted by Tony Isabella and which will guest star Ghost Rider, then on to that month's GHOST RIDER. The story will then conclude in DAREDEVIL ANNUAL.

Lee Elias will definitely be doing the POWER MAN ANNUAL.

The Hulk will be moving his stomping grounds to New York after a Defenders crossover in HULK #201. During the summer, the Green Goliath will go berserk and battle a bunch of New York-based heroes.

George Tuska is back as regular IRON MAN penciller. Tom Sutton has inked an issue of MASTER OF KUNG FU, and Sal Buscema has pencilled an issue of that title.

Nightcrawler and The Punisher will each be guest-starring in SPIDER-MAN.

Tony DeZuniga is the new inker on THOR.

Ed Hannigan will be taking over the pencilling of SON OF SATAN with Sonny Trinidad on the inks.

Craig Russell has returned to full pencils on WAR OF THE WORLDS in AMAZING ADVENTURES.

Gil Kane will no longer be doing SONS OF THE TIGER in DEADLY HANDS OF KUNG FU. Keith Giffen is working on a story and may become permanent artist.

Herb Trimpe is taking over the art on GHOST RIDER.

In addition to the four experimental 30¢ comics, certain test areas of the country have been receiving 30¢ Marvels for a couple of months already. (They're the same as the 25¢ comics everywhere else is getting, but there's a big 30¢ in the upper left hand corner.) The Grand Rapids, MI area is one. Gold-Key did the same thing when comics went from 12¢ to 15¢.

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Roger Stern, Marvel's new reprint editor, will give a year's supply of wrinkle-proof non-rust no-prizes to anybody who can supply him with a complete index to the Marvel western books.

HOWARD THE DUCK #1, despite some signs to the contrary, did see some newsstand distribution. However, a great part of the print run was purchased by dealer-speculators, setting out to corner the market and drive the prices up. Marvel has nothing to do with it and they ask that you not complain to them as they had nothing to do with it. Unfortunately, it is the tendency on the part of many dealers to purchase first issues and many fans miss it completely because they cannot find it on the stands. On books like the upcoming THE ETERNALS, the continuity may be lost -- and this is not only bad for the fans, who might end up shelling out a buck or two, but Marvel also.

Gold Key News

Starting at the end of this year, WALT DISNEY SHOWCASE will reprint such overseas Disney series as "Mickey And The Sleuth" and "Disney Characters In History." This is probably some of the Italian stuff that we've heard so much about.

Gold-Key is remaining at the 25¢ level for the forseeable future.

Coming Comics

Walt Disney's DONALD DUCK (171, May). Reprint stories. (3/11)

WOODY WOODPECKER (150, May). New stories. (3/11)

Walt Disney's CHIP 'N' DALE (39, May). New stories. (3/11)

GRIMM'S GHOST STORIES (30, May). New stories. (3/11)

Walt Disney's SUPER GOOF (38, June). New stories. (3/11)

MIGHTY SAMSON (32, June). New story. (3/11)

Walt Disney's DAISY AND DONALD (16, May). New stories. (3/18)

TUROK, SON OF STONE (103, May). New stories by Paul Newman and Alberto Giolitti. (3/18)

Walt Disney's HUEY, DEWEY AND LOUIE (38, May). New stories. (3/18)

Walt Disney's SCAMP (29, May). New stories. (3/18)

LITTLE LULU (232, May). New stories. (3/18)

THE PINK PANTHER (33, May). New stories. (3/18)

LITTLE MONSTERS (33, June). New stories. (3/18)

STAR TREK (37, May). New story. (3/25)

TWEETY AND SYLVESTER (57, May). New stories. (3/25)

WALT DISNEY'S COMICS AND STORIES (428, New and reprint stories. (3/25)

Walt Disney's BEAGLE BOYS (29, May). New stories. (3/25)

BUGS BUNNY (171, May). New stories. (3/25)

THE TWILIGHT ZONE (70, May). New stories. (3/25)

UNDERDOG (6, June). New stories. (3/25)

KK GIVEAWAYS (415, May) BUGS BUNNY and (416, June) BEEP BEEP, THE ROAD RUNNER.

Harvey

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MARCH COMING COMICS: CASPER'S GHOSTLAND #90, RICHIE RICH BANK BOOK$ #23, SAD SACK LAUGH SPECIAL #69 and 35¢ RICHIE RICH DOLLARS AND CENTS #73, on sale March 4.

SPOOKY SPOOKTOWN #63, CASPER #186, RICHIE RICH #143, and 35¢ RICHIE RICH SUCCESS STORIES #68, on sale March 11.

RICHIE RICH AND CASPER #12, DEVIL KIDS #76, RICHIE RICH JACKPOT$ #23 and 35¢ RICHIE RICH DIAMONDS #24, on sale March 18.

SAD SACK AND SARGE #119, RICHIE RICH PROFIT$ #11, RICHIE RICH CASH #12 and 35¢ SUPER RICHIE #5, on sale March 25.

All cover dated June.

Charlton News

Just after we went to press, Charlton signed the contracts for the SIX MILLION DOLLAR MAN and EMERGENCY books. Each should appear shortly.

The following books have been cancelled: MIDNIGHT TALES with #18, May; DOOMSDAY + 1 with #6, June; YANG with #13, May; TIME FOR LOVE with #47, May; VENGEANCE SQUAD with #6, June; CREEPY THINGS with #6, June; BEYOND THE GRAVE with #6, June and HOUSE OF YANG with #6, June.

Coming Comics

JUST MARRIED (111, June). (3/4)

SARGE SNORKEL (15, June). (3/4)

LOVE DIARY (99, June). (3/4)

I LOVE YOU (118, June). (3/4)

THE FLINTSTONES (46, June). (3/4)

THE HOUSE OF YANG (6, June). Joe Gill and Sanho Kim present the final issue of the adventures of Sun-Yang. The cover is by Kim. (3/11)

BILLY THE KID (118, June). Another issue scripted and drawn by Warren Sattler. The cover is by Sattler. (3/11)

THE MANY GHOSTS OF DR. GRAVES (57, June). Three new stories. The cover is by Rich Larson and Tim Boxell. (3/11)

GHOSTLY HAUNTS (50, June). This issue

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features three new stories. The cover is by Rich Larson. (3/11)

SIX MILLION DOLLAR MAN (1, June). The long-delayed first issue, by Nick Cuti and Joe Staton, slated to contain a version of the Bionic Man's origin. Cover is by Staton. (3/11)

EMERGENCY (1, June). The paramedics finally roll out of the fire station in their first adventure by Nick Cuti and John Byrne. The cover is by Byrne. (3/11)

BEYOND THE GRAVE (6, June). Another three story issue closes out the run of this magazine. The cover is by Steve Ditko. (3/18)

CREEPY THINGS (6, June). The final issue of this magazine contains the story "The Hairy One" by Mike Zeck, plus two other stories. Zeck did the cover. (3/18)

SCOOBY DOO (8, June). Bill Williams illustrates another issue of the TV canine. Williams did the cover. (3/18)

VALLEY OF THE DINOSAURS (8, June). The cave-living Butlers star in another adventure written and drawn by Fred Himes. The cover is by Himes. (3/18)

BARNEY AND BETTY RUBBLE (20, June). (3/18)

PEBBLES AND BAMM-BAMM (33, June). (3/18)

THE PHANTOM (71, June). If he's been able to work it into his schedule, Don Newton will be the artist on this issue. Newton did do the cover. (3/25)

POPEYE (135, June). Another installment of George Wildman's version of the one-eyed sailor. The cover is by Wildman. (3/25)

MONSTER HUNTERS (6, June). The story that is cover featured in this issue is called "Dawn At Stonehenge" and is by Mike Zeck. The cover is by Zeck. (3/25)

SCARY TALES (6, June). Three mystery stories are featured in this issue. The cover is by Bob Hall. (3/25)

YOGI BEAR (32, June). The art and cover are by Ray Dirgo. (3/25)

FOR LOVERS ONLY (85, June). (3/25)

SIX MILLION DOLLAR MAN Magazine (1, June). This delayed issue features stories written by Nick Cuti and illustrated by the Continuity Studio. Howie Chaykin may have a story in this issue. Neal Adams did the cover. (3/30)

EMERGENCY Magazine (1, June). Again, this issue includes stories written by Nick Cuti and drawn by the Continuity artists. Neal Adams did the cover. (3/30)

A Letter from the Editors

As you can undoubtedly see, we have not raised our cover price, but this IS a threat : We may do so at any time in the ensuing months, so it would behoove you to renew now.

Also, this issue marks the second anniversary of David Finger's tenure as TCR's New York Roving Reporter. We'd like to make it clear that we couldn't have done it without him and we thank Dave for all his patience, perseverance and pluck. Page 17's for you, Dave. Jerry and Mike

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Warren

January 23, Warren announced that Bill DuBay, editor and Vice President, had left the company after four years. His current duties will be taken over by Louise Jones as Acting Editor until a replacement is named.

FAMOUS MONSTERS OF FILMLAND (125, May). (3/6)

CREEPY (79, May). This issue's features: "Kui," written and illustrated by Alex Toth and set in the Hawaiian islands; "The Super-Abnormal Survival Kit" by Jim Stenstrum and John Severin; "Shadow Of The Ax" by Dave Sims and Russ Heath; aliens and walking dead are subjects of "Visitation to Pliny Marsh" by Gerry Boudreau and Martin Salvador; plus the everpopular cannibalism and vampirism is starred in "As Ye Sow" by Bruce Jones and Luis Bermejo. Cover by Enrich, inside front cover is by Berni Wrightson. (3/9)

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EERIE (74, May). Jebediah Pain appears in "Dr. Bottles" by Bill DuBay and Jose Ortiz; plus these stories are included: "The Expedition" by Budd Lewis and Leopoldo Sanchez; "Merlin" by Lewis and Gonzalo Mayo; "Gillian Taxi And The Sky Pirate" by Lewis and Luis Bermejo; and "Peter Hypnos" by Jose Bea. Cover is by Ken Kelley. (3/18)

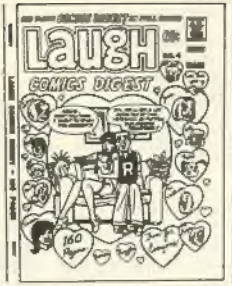
VAMPIRELLA (51, May). This is an all-Gerry Boudreau-written issue. Stories included are: "The Day The Music Died" by Neal Adams and Dick Giordano; "Second Genesis" by Esteban Maroto; "House At Blood Corner" by Ramon Torrents; "Whitechapel" by Auraleon; and "The Sergeson Experiment" by Zaszar. The cover is by Sanjulian. (3/23)

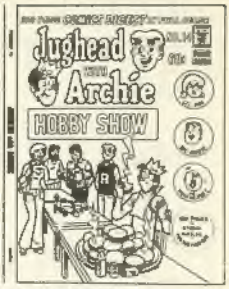
Archie News

Chic Stone's work will be appearing regularly in ARCHIE.

Sal Amendola is now a member of the Archie art crew and his work will appear in most of the Archie titles. Jon D'Agostino will be inking most of his stuff.

The first ARCHIE'S GRAPHICS READING CENTER (an educational kit designed to use comic books in the teaching of reading) has completely sold out. The sales have been so encouraging, in fact, that work on a second kit has already begun. Work is also progressing on an ARCHIE MULTIPLICATION KIT.





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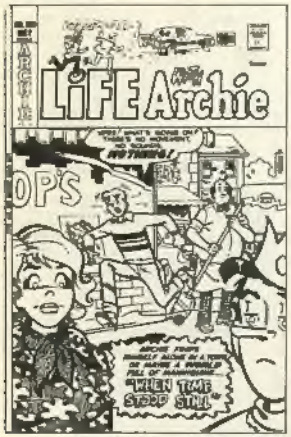
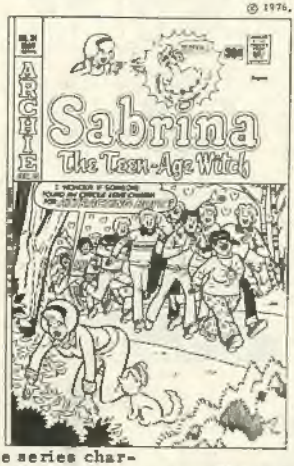
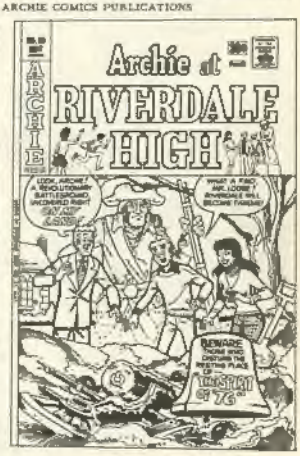




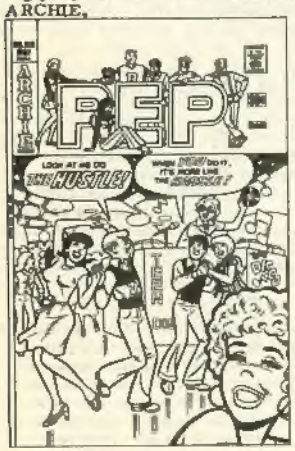


A few of the older Archie series characters such as Wilbur, Pipsqueak, Super Duck (ducks are the vogue, you know), Pat the Brat and Pureheart the Powerful will be regular features in LAUGH COMICS DIGEST.

A four-part Bi-Centennial story is being prepared for a future issue of LIFE WITH ARCHIE.

This month's LIFE WITH ARCHIE features a science fiction-type story, "When Time Stood Still."

Finally, Arch meets the ghost of a Revolutionary War hero in ARCHIE AT RIVERDALE #35.



Coming Comics

MARCH COMING COMICS: ARCHIE'S PALS & GALS #104, ARCHIE'S JOKEBOOK #220, BETTY AND VERONICA #245 and PEP COMICS #313, on sale February 24.

LITTLE ARCHIE #106, REGGIE AND ME #87, LAUGH COMICS #302, LIFE WITH ARCHIE #169 and JUGHEAD #252, on sale March 2.

SABRINA, THE TEEN-AGE WITCH #31, ARCHIE'S TV LAUGHOUT #40(June), BETTY AND ME #75, ARCHIE #253 (June), and LAUGH COMICS DIGEST #4, on sale March 9.

EVERYTHING'S ARCHIE #47, REGGIE'S JOKES #37, MADHOUSE #102, THAT WILKIN BOY #36, ARCHIE AT RIVERDALE HIGH #35 and JUGHEAD WITH ARCHIE DIGEST #14, on sale March 16.

All cover dated May unless otherwise listed.

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Continuity Assoc.

The contracts have been signed for the SIX MILLION DOLLAR MAN and EMERGENCY books, so production of the black and whites is beginning again. Neal Adams has done the poster for the movie GRIZZLY and two paperback covers: PLATYPUS OF DOOM, and a history of the Tong War in California. POWERMAN #31 was inked by the Crusties, including John Fuller, Mark Rice, Jack Abel, Mike Nasser, Al Milgrom and Neal Adams, who did quite a bit. Terry Austin did a U.F.O. strip for NATIONAL LAMPOON, and will be inking a GREEN LANTERN story over Mike Grell pencils. Mike Nasser, a new-arrival from Detroit, is doing a back-up story for KAMANDI. Win Mortimer is doing a story for the EMERGENCY book, Jack Sparling a story for SIX MILLION DOLLAR MAN, and Dick Ayers has done a SPACE:1999 tale. Continuity did a NatLamp T-shirt iron on of Zimmerman. New Peter Pan record jackets have been done for two SPACE: 1999, and work is progressing on CONAN and WONDER WOMAN records. They're doing a CREST animated ad. They're doing the boxes for some new Meggo toys featuring comic book characters. Neal is doing a set of collectors stamps featuring superheroes. Dick Giordano is doing a twenty page SIX MILLION DOLLAR MAN. And Larry Hama is spending his time acting in the Broadway show, PACIFIC OVERTURE.

National Lampoon

The latest NatLamp project is a coffee-table book that parodies coffee-table books.

NATIONAL LAMPOON (73, April). This is a Sports issue, and since they're a little behind on their work, contents are not yet settled. Planned though, is a Babe Ruth Comeback by Gerry Sussman and Ric Meyerowitz, an article on Dog Fishing by Sussman, an article on Cock Fighting by Sean Kelly and many other sporting parodies. (3/16)

Visual Publications

Byron Preiss and Pyramid will present the second issue of FICTION ILLUSTRATED, featuring STARFAWN by Preiss and Steve Fabian with color by Marie Severin. It is a science fiction, STAR TREK-type adventure about the first encounter of twelve people aboard a non-military star ship with aliens. The book will be 102 pages and we should have the cover repro next issue.

●

Unabashed Plug Time: Unabashed plugging has become such a way of life in this magazine that none of you should be surprised that I'm plugging our own stuff. The special offer this time is our Street Enterprises Benefit Portfolio, 52 pages of comics' finest artists, for a new low price -- $7.50! We need your money!

Comment

An era of comics publishing ended January 19, 1976, when Carmine Infantino stepped down from his publishing post at National Periodical Publications, under what was termed a mutual agreement." Infantino had been top man since 1968 when he had been promoted to the post of editorial director by the previous publisher, Irwin Donenfeld. Sweeping change and full scale revampment came about after his appointment, and he was soon named president and publisher of the whole line. His reign of seven plus years was one of the most explosive, interesting and strange periods of DC's history.

Prior to Infantino's takeover, National had been known chiefly for its biggest selling character, Superman, publishing at least seven different titles in which the character had a starring or co-starring role. Seven years later, probably partially due to the retirement of long-time Superman editor Mort Weisinger, Superman was star-billed in only four books. The Superman family, originally consisting of SUPERMAN, SUPERBOY, LOIS LANE, JIMMY OLSEN, WORLD'S FINEST, ACTION and ADVENTURE, had grown to eight when SUPERGIRL received her own book. But with gradual change, SUPERBOY lost his book to the LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES, ADVENTURE was relegatad to try-out book, and LOIS LANE, JIMMY OLSEN and SUPERGIRL were combined into THE SUPERMAN FAMILY. More dispersal of the "group feeling of the remaining books occured when the editorial chores were divided among three or four different editors, each of whom had different ideas about the handling of the same characters. What with the original seven good selling titles having been whittled down to four, the focus of the line had to be changed.

Soon after Infantino took over, he laid the basis for the change in focus by hiring an almost entirely new editorial staff. Editors Robert Kanigher, George Kashdan and Jack Miller, each of whom had more than two decades of editorial experience and each of whom were writers, left before Mort Weisinger, who also fit that pattern. As replacements, Infantino promoted artists to editorial posts over a two year period. Joe Orlando, Mike Sekowsky, Joe Kubert and Dick Giordano were the initial people involved, and only Giordano had had any extensive editorial experience, as editor at Charlton. The obvious shift of viewpoint from story to art (or rather, story through an artist s eyes) was evident in many of the new books initiated through these editors -- although it was also partly due to the changes in page size, which changed the logistics of the amount of text that could be fit on a page of art.

The change in staff extended to writers and artists also, with many of the old leaving for other fields. New talent was developed at DC by many of the editors, among which were Len Wein, Marv Wolfman, Mike Friedrich, Gerry Conway, Neal Adams, Mike Kaluta, Berni Wrightson and Jim Aparo. Others like Frank Robbins, John Severin, Wally Wood and Ric Estrada were brought to the company to provide experienced work as well. It all amounted to a real 'new look' at DC.

Infantino was also directly responsible for the influx of The Philippines artists: Nestor Redondo, Tony DeZuniga, Alfredo Alcala, Ernie Chua, Alex Nino, et al. By the early '70s, they were drawing a great part of the line.

At this point, it is important to mention that Marvel was a twenty title company in 1968, their main base being the superhero. By 1970, DC had cancelled most of their super-hero line, leaving a skeleton of what once had provided the body of the line. Infantino put the emphasis on his mystery books, changing their direction to provide a more commercial, explicit line of semi-horror. Marvel began to make gains.

Coincident with Weisinger's retirement was Jack Kirby's hiring away from Marvel by DC. Infantino's capture of Marvel s main artistic force was a coup, to be sure, and it is certain that Kirby's presence at DC was an advantage to the company. Altogether, Kirby's output was staggering, although the sales were not. A possible reason for this was Kirby's baffling lack of pacing for his books and the fact that he did not sufficiently edit his own writing, which was frequently superfluous to the drawings -- when not wholly ridiculous. Kirby was apparently as baffled as everyone else; when his books failed to sell well enough to warrant continuance, he became disgruntled and almost went back to Marvel. Finally, he did -- and it may not be coincidental that it was soon after Infantino began assigning Kirby to draw books he had not written himself. Kirby s legacy at DC was chiefly KAMANDI, which looks as if it may well continue adequately without him.

To be honest, some of the editorial situations hadn't panned out; Sekowsky seemed unequal to the task and Joe Kubert has recently cut down his editing to a book and some new projects. Giordano went back to a more self-satisfying career as artist and subsequent artist-to-editor promotions -- Joe Simon, Tex Blaisdell -- were either unsuccessful or short-lived. Only the appointment of Denny O'Neil, a writer, seems to have worked out well enough for him to continue with National. Archie Goodwin, another writer, stayed a year; Gerry Conway has only recently begun. The bulk of the workload remains on Julius Schwartz, Murray Boltinoff and Joe Orlando, who has been quite successful.

Aside from staff and thematic changes, Infantino lent his artistic prowess towards changing the physical appearance of the line. He laid out perhaps 95% of the covers (although Joe Kubert and a few of the other artist-editors sometimes did their own) and was also responsible for the many cover-style changes that National, like the other companies, feels they need every couple of years. He eliminated the "Superman DC National Comics" logo, and, after a time, replaced it with 'DC, The Line Of Super Stars." He changed nearly every logo (al-

though sometimes detrimentally) on every comic. And he was probably the most responsible for changes in comic book packaging in the past ten years.

Infantino initiated the 100 Page Super-Spectacular and, along with Sol Harrison, was responsible for the tabloid size dollar book. The former succumbed to economics but the latter seems a genuine success, having gained widespread distribution where comics previously had not. He changed the line to 48 page 25¢ comics when all others had gone to 32 pages for 20¢, and later kept the line at 20¢ for a year after the others had gone to 25¢. However, in each case DC ended up following the lead of the rest of the industry on pricing. Thus it was not unexpected when Infantino made the move to 30¢ this year, even though Marvel has yet to do so. Whatever the reason, whether National's experimentation with size or their different pricing, Marvel soon had made phenomenal progress and grabbed a bigger piece of the market. Although it was never officially admitted, Marvel had become #1 and DC second best in sales.

Infantino s handling of new titles as well as old ones was done with much more assurance and less hesitancy than had his predecessors. He was not reluctant to cancel books that were not doing well and began the short run tryouts of some books. Whereas SHOWCASE tryouts lasted six months or more and new books were not awarded for a year after that, Infantino dispensed with SHOWCASE altogether and launched more new titles than DC had published in the previous twenty years. Certainly, more varied and experimental titles were tried in all veins: weird, humor, western, teen-age, gothic, prehistoric, etc. He was responsible also for major changes in such long-published titles as SUPERMAN, BATMAN, WONDER WOMAN and HOUSE OF MYSTERY, and recently revived some of the books he had cancelled in 1968. New ideas were prevalent in his tenure.

Carmine Infantino was responsible for National s acquisition of TARZAN, as well as the original Captain Marvel (and other Fawcett characters) as well as THE SHADOW. The latter two have proven unsatisfactory in sales, although the licensing of Captain Marvel and SHAZAM! is invaluable, while TARZAN is currently undergoing a revampment to increase its success. And one must not forget that the SUPERMAN movie series and the team-up of SUPERMAN and SPIDER-MAN came about under Infantino.

If you look beyond the unsuccessful experiments (colored-in panel borders) and the short runs of some books, you realize that there is much that can be learned by examining what happened under Infantino's guidance. Perhaps what was most lacking was the stability of continuity that Marvel seems to brandish with such success (however illusory). Expectations that Infantino would be able to provide this were never realized... there always seems that there is a little too much independence where editorial treatment of characters used in more than one book in concerned. Then again, that is also what's often so appealing about National; everything ISN'T the same. With Marvel it's more a 'love me, love my group proposition; with DC you can be vehemently against one book and love another because there is that much of a schism in treatment. Hopefully, the new brain-trust at DC, Sol Harrison and Jenette Kahn, will be able to collate all the data accumulated in the last seven years and see the answers to whatever circulation problems may exist through new eyes. Although change should be expected, the basis of what Carmine Infantino built will continue to be the foundation of the line for the next few years.

- Mike Tiefenbacher

Et Al

New books slated to appear in the next month from Krupp Comic Works include:

COMIX BOOK #4. After Marvel killed COMIX BOOK with issue #3, there were two additional titles assembled and after a year of negotiation, Krupp acquired rights to those. The fourth issue contains the fourth episode of Justin Green s "We Fellow Traveleers,' the continuation of Trina s "Panthea story, plus contributions by Skip Williamson, Gary Hallgren, Sharon Rudahl, Willy Murphy, Ted Richards, Howard Cruse and others. The cover is by Leslie Cabarga. $1.00

SNARF #6. Highlights include a Robert Crumb cover, "Marijuana: Crutch Or Cure," by Justin Green, ' Life In The Ice and Salt Works" by Denis Kitchen, "Confessions Of An Underground Cartoonist" by Joel Beck, a Ted Richards-Willy Murphy jam, and stories by George Metzger, Kim Deitch, Jay Kinney and several others. 75¢

AN ARMY OF PRINCIPLES. A history of the Revolutionary War era in comic book format by Leonard Rifas. No dilettante effort, this book is the result of hundreds of hours of careful research. The result is both educational and entertaining. Endorsed by the Peoples' Bicentennial Commission. 75¢

Menomonee Falls GAZETTE columnist Jacob Moraine informs us that Whitman, a division of Western Publishing, publishers of Gold-Key comics, has published four GIANT COMICS TO COLOR. They're the size of DC's dollar books, but are in black and white, cost 69¢ each, and are otherwise just like regular comics, except that you can color them in. Titles published thus far have been SUPERMAN, BATMAN, WONDER WOMAN and SHAZAM! Jacob mentions that the art seems to be by the Philippines' crew of artists, while the writing seems very similar to that of the DC writers . No credits are given.

Mort Walker's excellent and enjoyable book about comic strips, BACKSTAGE AT THE COMIC STRIPS ($12.50, Mason-Charter, 310 pages) is also being offered in six syndicated installments by King Features Syndicate. Watch your local papers.

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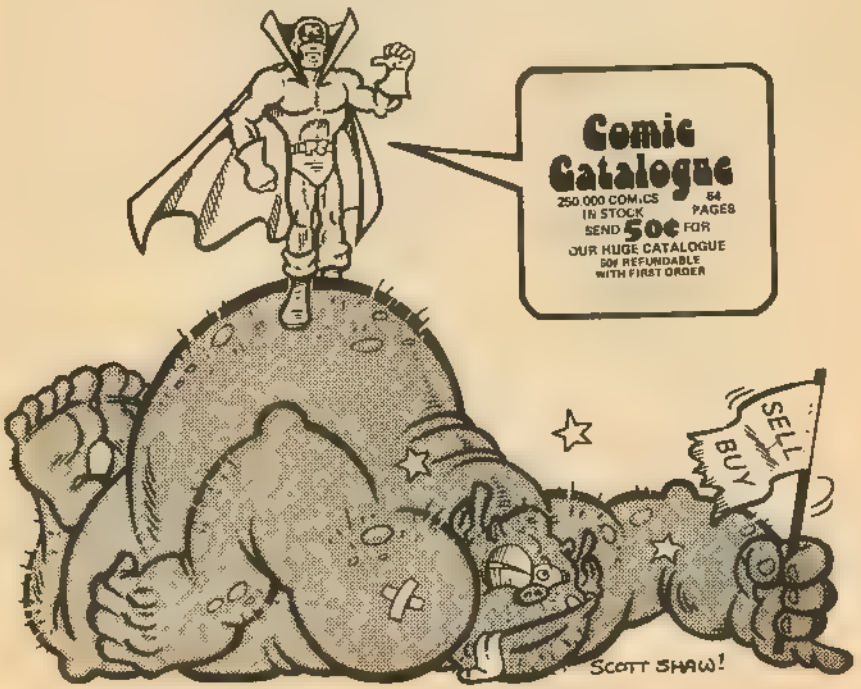

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- ☐ DAREDEVIL #134
- ☐ THE DEADLY HANDS OF KUNG FU #23
- ☐ THE DEFENDERS #36
- ☐ DOC SAVAGE #4
- ☐ DOCTOR STRANGE #15
- ☐ FANTASTIC FOUR #171
- ☐ FANTASTIC FOUR ANNUAL #11
- ☐ THE GHOST RIDER #18
- ☐ THE INCREDIBLE HULK #200
- ☐ THE INHUMANS #5
- ☐ IRON FIST #5
- ☐ IRON MAN #87
- ☐ IRON MAN ANNUAL #3
- ☐ KA-ZAR #16
- ☐ KID COLT OUTLAW #207
- ☐ MARVEL ADVENTURE #4
- ☐ MARVEL CHILLERS #5
- ☐ MARVEL DOUBLE FEATURE #16
- ☐ MARVEL PRESENTS #5
- ☐ MARVEL PREMIERE #30 (Liberty Legion)
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- ☐ MARVEL TWO-IN-ONE #16
- ☐ MASTER OF KUNG FU #41
- ☐ THE MIGHTY MARVEL WESTERN #45
- ☐ PLANET OF THE APES #20
- ☐ POWER MAN #32
- ☐ SON OF SATAN #4
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- ☐ THOR #248
- ☐ TOMB OF DRACULA #45
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- ☐ WARLOCK #13
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- ☐ JUSTICE LEAGUE OF AMERICA #131
- ☐ KAMANDI #42
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Charlton

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- ☐ VALLEY OF THE DINOSAURS #8
- ☐ YOGI BEAR #32

MARVEL SCORECARD

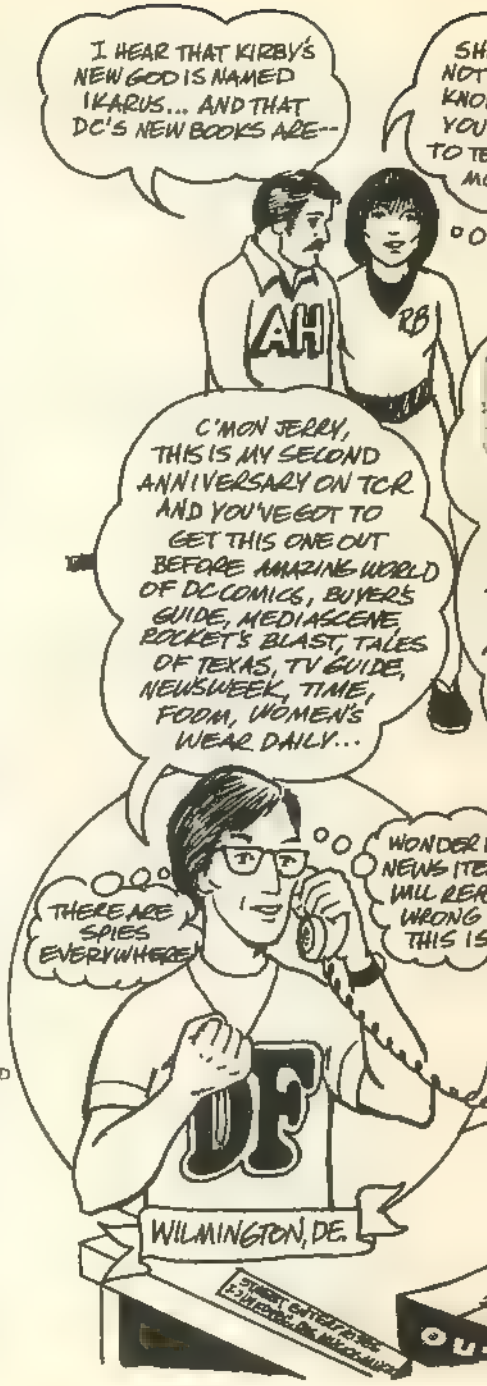
In response to all of you who claim you can't tell the Marvel artists and writers without a scorecard, here it is...

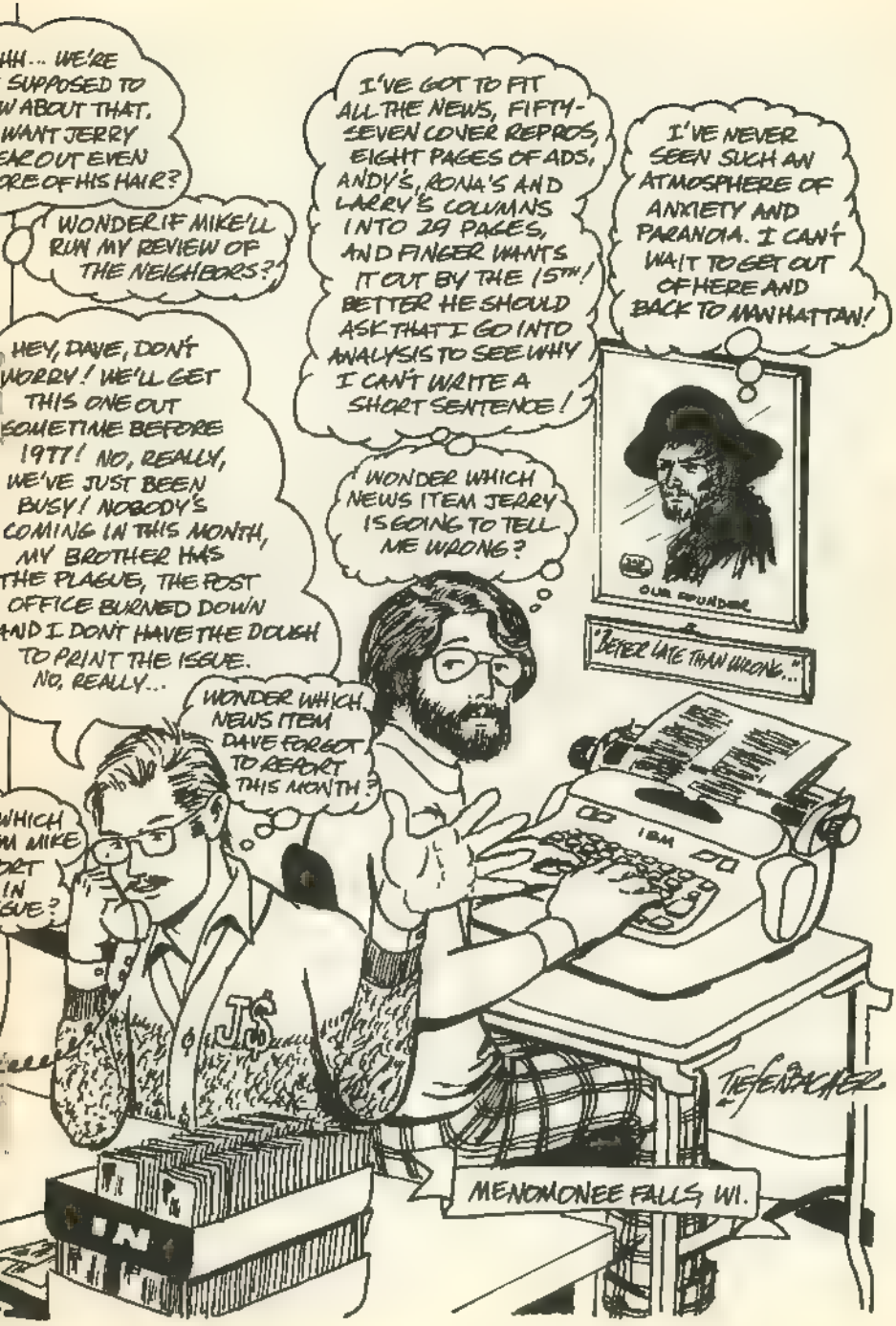
Title	Frequency	Writer	Artist
1. AMAZING ADVENTURES	BIM	McGregor	Rosario, Trinidad
2. THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN	M	Wein	Andru, Esposito
3. ASTONISHING TALES	BIM	Buscema	Buckler, Sinnott
4. THE AVENGERS	M	Englehart	Perez, Kaluta
5. BLACK GOLIATH	BIM	Thomas	Tuska, Colletta
6. CAPTAIN AMERICA	M	Kirby	Kirby, Giacoia
7. CAPTAIN MARVEL	BIM	Englehart	Milgrom
8. THE CHAMPIONS	BIM	Isabella	Buscema, Colletta
9. CONAN THE BARBARIAN	M	Thomas	J. Buscema, Sal
10. DAREDEVIL	M	Wolfman	Brown, Mooney
11. THE DEFENDERS	M	Gerber	S. Buscema, Sinnott
12. DOCTOR STRANGE	BIM	Englehart	Colan, Palmer
13. THE ETERNALS	M	Kirby	Kirby, Wrightson
14. FANTASTIC FOUR	M	Thomas	Perez, Buscema
15. THE GHOST RIDER	BIM	Isabella	Ayers, Colletta
16. HOWARD THE DUCK	BIM	Gerber	Mooney
17. THE INCREDIBLE HULK	M	Wein	S. Buscema, Staton
18. THE INHUMANS	BIM	Sinnott	Kane, The Tribe
19. THE INVADERS	M	Thomas	Robbins, Colletta
20. IRON FIST	TIQ	Claremont	Byrne, Chiaramonte
21. IRON MAN	M	Goodwin	Tuska, Colletta
22. JUNGLE ACTION	BIM	McGregor	Buckler
23. KA-ZAR	BIM	Sinnott	Sinnott
24. KULL THE BARBARIAN	Dec	Thomas	Hannigan, Mooney
25. MARVEL CHILLERS	BIM	Isabella	Brunner, Palmer
26. MARVEL FEATURE	BIM	Thomas	Trimpe,
27. MARVEL PREMIERE	BIM	Gerber	Milgrom
28. MARVEL PREMIERE	BIM	Moore	None
29. MARVEL SPOTLIGHT	BIM	Moore	None
30. MARVEL TEAM-UP	M	Claremont	S. Buscema, Esposito
31. MARVEL TWO-IN-ONE	M	Marvin	Wrightson, Adkins
32. MASTER OF KUNG FU	M	Moench	Gulacy, Adkins
33. MS. MARVEL	BIM	None	None
34. NOVA	M	Wolfman	None
35. OMEGA THE UNKNOWN	BIM	Gerber, Starlin	Mooney
36. POWER MAN	M	McGregor	Robbins, Colletta
37. THE PUNISHER	BIM	Englehart	Colan
38. SKUL THE SLAYER	BIM	Marvin	Cain
39. SON OF SATAN	BIM	Warner	Hannigan, Trinidad
40. SPIDEY SUPER STORIES	BIM	Saltzberg	Mortimer, Esposito
41. SUPER VILLAIN TEAM-UP	BIM	Englehart	Trimpe
42. THOR	M	Kane	Buscema, DeZuniga
43. TOMB OF DRACULA	M	Wolfman	Colan, Palmer
44. 1001 A SPACE ODYSSEY	BIM	Kirby	Kirby, Giacoia
45. WARLOCK	BIM	Starlin	Starlin, Colletta
46. WEREWOLF BY NIGHT	BIM	Moench	Perlin
47. THE X-MEN	BIM	Claremont	Cockrum, Grainger

Awards

The results of the 1975 Comic Art Fan Awards have been released by Mark Gasper and Ken Gale, who took over the awards from Tony Isabella. Simultaneously, they listed the final tallies from the '74 awards. Winners should not expect the Award Certificates in the near future, as they have not been produced as yet.

1974 Results: FAVORITE PRO ARTIST - 1. Berni Wrightson (96), 2. Neal Adams (42) 3. Barry Smith (39) 4. Jim Starlin (35) 5. Mike Kaluta (18) 6. Frank Brunner 7. Others (137); FAVORITE PRO WRITER - 1. Len Wein (121) 2. Steve Englehart (64) 3. Roy Thomas (59) 4. Denny O'Neil (47) 5. Gerry Conway (21) 6. Jack Kirby (11) 7. Others (58); FAVORITE PRO EDITOR - 1. Roy Thomas (151) 2. Julius Schwartz (55) 3. Joe Orlando (51) 4. Archie Goodwin (35) 5. Abstain (18) 6. Jack Kirby (11) 7. Others (60); FAVORITE PRO COMIC BOOK - 1. SWAMP THING (99) 2. CONAN THE BARBARIAN (51) 3. THE SHADOW (30) 4. CAPTAIN MARVEL (25) 5. THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN (24) 6. SAVAGE TALES (19) 7. Others (135); FAVORITE NON-NEWSSTAND COMIC BOOK - 1. Abstain (75) 2. MENOMONEE FALLS GAZETTE (70) 3. THE SPIRIT UNDERGROUND (Krupp) (35) 4. SPASM (12) 5. GRIM WIT (11) 6. EC REPRINT SERIES (10) 7. Others (170); FAVORITE COMIC BOOK STORY - 1. " The Night of The Bat," SWAMP THING #7 (29) 2. "The Night Gwen Stacy Died," THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #121-122 (24) 3. Abstain (24) 4. "Finally Shuma-Gorath MARVEL PREMIERE #10 (Dr. Strange) (23) 5. "Red Nails" (parts 1 and 2) SAVAGE TALES #2 and 3 (20) tied with "A Clockwork Horror" SWAMP THING #6 (20) 6. Others (244); FAVORITE COMIC BOOK CHARACTER - 1. Conan (51) 2. Swamp Thing (46) 3. Batman (44) 4. The Shadow (32) 5. Spider-Man (28) 6. Dr. Strange (20) 7. Others (162); FAVORITE FANZINE - 1. THE COMIC


I HEAR THAT KIRBY'S NEW GOD IS NAMED IKARUS... AND THAT DC'S NEW BOOKS ARE--
AH
RB
C'MON JERRY, THIS IS MY SECOND ANNIVERSARY ON TCR AND YOU'VE GOT TO GET THIS ONE OUT BEFORE AMAZING WORLD OF DC COMICS, BUYERS GUIDE, MEDIASCENE, ROCKET'S BLAST, TALES OF TEXAS, TV GUIDE, NEWSWEEK, TIME, FOOM, WOMEN'S WEAR DAILY...
THERE ARE SPIES EVERYWHERE!
WONDER NEWS ITE WILL REA WRONG THIS IS
DF
WILMINGTON, DE.


HH... WE'RE SUPPOSED TO W ABOUT THAT. WANT JERRY EAR OUT EVEN ORE OF HIS HAIR?
WONDER IF MIKE'LL RUN MY REVIEW OF THE NEIGHBORS?
HEY, DAVE, DON'T WORRY! WE'LL GET THIS ONE OUT SOMETIME BEFORE 1977! NO, REALLY, WE'VE JUST BEEN BUSY! NOBODY'S COMING IN THIS MONTH, MY BROTHER HAS THE PLAGUE, THE POST OFFICE BURNED DOWN AND I DON'T HAVE THE DOUGH TO PRINT THE ISSUE. NO, REALLY...
I'VE GOT TO FIT ALL THE NEWS, FIFTY-SEVEN COVER REPROS, EIGHT PAGES OF ADS, ANDY'S, RONA'S AND LARRY'S COLUMNS INTO 29 PAGES, AND FINGER WANTS IT OUT BY THE 15TH! BETTER HE SHOULD ASK THAT I GO INTO ANALYSIS TO SEE WHY I CAN'T WRITE A SHORT SENTENCE!
I'VE NEVER SEEN SUCH AN ATMOSPHERE OF ANXIETY AND PARANOIA. I CAN'T WAIT TO GET OUT OF HERE AND BACK TO MANHATTAN!
WONDER WHICH NEWS ITEM JERRY IS GOING TO TELL ME WRONG?
OUR FOUNDER
"BETTER LATE THAN WRONG..."
WONDER WHICH NEWS ITEM DAVE FORGOT TO REACT THIS MONTH?
WHICH M MIKE ORT IN GUE?
IBM
TIEFENBACHER
MENOMONEE FALLS, WI.

READER (103) 2. THE BUYER'S GUIDE (63) 3. ROCKET'S BLAST-COMICOLLECTOR (38) 4. COMIXSCENE (34) 5. Abstain (15) 6. INSIDE COMIX (12) 7. Others (118); FAVORITE FAN WRITER - 1. Abstain (97) 2. Don and Maggie Thompson (44) 3. Joe Brancatelli (20) 4. Jan Strnad (18) tied with Murray Bishoff (18) 6. Marty Greim (17) Others (169); FAVORITE FAN ARTIST - 1. Abstain (97) 2. Don Newton (42) 3. Rich Corben (41) 4. Jeff Jones (12) tied with Vaughn Bode (12) 6. John Byrne (11) tied with Jim Steranko (11) tied with Robert Crumb (11) 7. Others (146). All abstentions were listed under "others" unless listed seperately. They were originally listed as "No Award" votes.

1975 RESULTS - The 1974 awards received 383 ballots, the 1975 awards received 267. FAVORITE WRITER - 1. Roy Thomas (40) 2. Steve Englehart (38) 3. Steve Gerber (34) 4. Archie Goodwin (23) 5. Denny O'Neil (22) 6. Len Wein (17) 7. Gerry Conway (13) tied with Don McGregor (13) FAVORITE PENCILLER - 1. Jim Starlin (47) 2. Frank Brunner (26) 3. Neal Adams (20) tied with John Buscema (20) 5. Jack Kirby (13) 6. Gene Colan (12) tied with Berni Wrightson (12) 8. Jim Aparo (8); FAVORITE INKER - 1. Tom Palmer (74) 2. Dick Giordano (49) 3. Klaus Janson (28) 4. Joe Sinnott (26) 5. Abstain (11) 6. Wally Wood (9) 7. Mike Royer (8) 8. D. Bruce Berry (4) tied with Alfredo Alcala (4); FAVORITE EDITOR - 1. Roy Thomas (113) 2. Archie Goodwin (31) 3. Joe Orlando (28) 4. Julius Schwartz (26) 5. Abstain (14) 6. George Wildman (7) tied with Marv Wolfman (7) 8. Jack Kirby (6); FAVORITE STORY - 1. Abstain (25) 2. "Gotterdammerung" DETECTIVE #443 (17) 3. "Sise Neg Genesis" MARVEL PREMIERE #13-14 (16) 4. "Where Boundries Decay" DOCTOR STRANGE #4 (10) tied with "Night Of The Stalker" DETECTIVE #439 (10) tied with The Resolution of the Thanos Epic from CAPTAIN MARVEL #31-33 (10) 8. "Night Of The Ninja" THE SHADOW #6 tied with "Deathwatch' MAN-THING #9-10 (7) ; FAVORITE NEWSSTAND COMIC - 1. E-MAN (23) 2. DR. STRANGE (22) 3. DETECTIVE COMICS (20) 4. THE SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN (18) 5. MAN-THING (15) 6. CONAN THE BARBARIAN (14) tied with THE SPIRIT (14) 8. THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN tied with SUPERBOY tied with TOMB OF DRACULA (11); FAVORITE COMIC BOOK CHARACTER - 1. Conan (29) 2. Batman (25) 3. Dr. Strange (22) 4. E-Man (19) 5. Spider-Man (16) 6. The Spirit (13) 7. Swamp Thing (10) 8. Manhunter tied with Howard The Duck (8); FAVORITE NON-NEWSSTAND COMIC - 1. Abstain (64) 2. STAR* REACH (49) 3. The Menomonee Falls GAZETTE (27) 4. EC CLASSIC REPRINTS (13) 5. AMAZING WORLD OF DC COMICS (10) 6. TIM CORRIGAN'S SUPER-HERO COMICS (8) 7. PHANTASMAGORIA (5) tied with THE FABULOUS FURRY FREAK BROS. (5); FAVORITE FANZINE - 1. THE COMIC READER (79) 2. THE BUYER S GUIDE (51) 3. ROCKET S BLAST-COMICOLLECTOR (23) 4. Abstain (21) 5. INSIDE COMICS (8) with CPL (8) 7. THE LEGION OUTPOST (6) 8. THE HEROINE ADDICT (5); FAVORITE FAN WRITER - 1. Abstain (68) 2. Don and Maggie Thompson (24) 3. Murray Bishoff (23) 4. Don Rosa (10) tied with Jay Zilber (10) 6. Mike Tiefenbacher (7) 7. James Van Hise tied with Bob Rodi (6); FAVORITE FAN ARTIST - 1. Abstain (81) 2. Vaughn Bode tied with John Byrne tied with Frank Cirocco tied with Don Rosa (10) 6. Mike Zeck tied with Richard Corben (8) 8. Martin Greim (7) FAVORITE NEW TALENT - 1. Abstain (51) 2. Paul Gulacy (32) 3. Mike Grell (28) 4. Craig Russell (20) 5. Walt Simonson (18) 6. Jim Starlin (16) 7. John Byrne (11) 8. Don Newton tied with Joe Staton (7); The mean age of all voters was 19 and the median age was 19.5.

I'd like to thank all seven of you that voted for me (no, really, I don't deserve it) and thanks for all of you who voted for TCR, the GAZETTE and Don Rosa (who doesn t have anything to do with our publications, but who's a good friend). Congratulations to all the winners.

We don't have the room to run it in this issue, but the 1976 Comic Art Fan Award NOMINATING ballot can be obtained by sending a self-addressed, stamped envelope to 1976 Comic Art Fan Awards, Mark Gasper, 32-25 167th Street, Flushing, NY 11358. The ballots will be counted until March 31, 1976 and will be for comics cover-dated 1975.

We also don't have the space this issue to run another awards ballot, the 1976 Comic Magazine Awards, run by Lester Boutillier. I'm not sure if he has ballots to send out, but you can send him a self-addressed stamped envelope also. His address is: 2726 Castiglione Street, New Orleans, LA 70119, and his deadline for his ballot is April 2, 1976.

Media News

A big hail and a hearty how-do-you-do, readers. It's that time again... Guy Hamilton is directing the SUPERMAN film, which should go into production very soon. He's in Paris filming an NBC promotion special about the film to be aired in February to coincide with the Man Of Steel's "birthday"... Three Belgian films, "Tarzoon, Shame Of The Jungle," "The Royal Question," and "Amra's Son Is Dead," while doing good business overseas, will not be distributed in the U.S. so as to avoid any legal action on the part of the Edgar Rice Burroughs estate, whose properties they spoof. They're animated shorts, and to take their satire of the Tarzan films a step further, Johnny Weissmuller, Jr., is the voice of the Apeman... After a production hiatus of six years, the British-made AVENGERS series is set to reactivate in April, although there are contradicting reports over whether Diana Rigg will join Patrick Macnee or whether there will be two new agents under John Steed. Macnee has been quoted as saying the series, which will consist of 30 new episodes budgeted at #250,000 each, will be keep out of the U.S. for two years, so as to avoid any of the interference that ABC gave. Brain Clemens and Albert Fennell will produce... SPACE: 1999 has been renewed,

with 24 new segments ordered at a $300,000 budget per episode. Plus, former STAR TREK producer (third season), Fred Freiberger, has taken over as producer, with Gerry Anderson remaining as Executive Producer... NBC, in what amounted to a good move and a bad move, has cancelled GRADY and THE COP AND THE KID (good), and replaced its vacated hour with another version of THE MAC DAVIS SHOW, which has already failed twice before in the exact same time spot. It's not fair; THE WALTONS outnumber poor Mac ten to one, at least... Ralph Bakshi's next animated spectacle will be HEY, GOOD LOOKIN', a rock and roll film... You airplane crash buffs have a treat in store as AIRPORT '77 has been announced by Universal... SPERMULA, an erotic, vampiric, science fiction movie has been announced... Mel Brooks' SILENT MOVIE has begun filming Brooks, Marty Feldman, Dom DeLuise, Sie Caesar, Bernadette Peters in silence. Cameos by Burt Reynolds, Anne Bancroft and Marcel Marceau, who has the only speaking part... STAR WARS is being made at a budget of $7 million, as science fiction films undergo their latest renaissance... And one of the world's truly dumb director-producers, Irwin Allen, has managed to con a movie company into budgeting $15 million to reenact a Hawaiian earthquake for his film THE DAY THE WORLD ENDED. It'll take four months to shoot and is scheduled to run three hours, at least. The worst part is that he'll probably con a couple of million people into the theatre... A combined animation-live action version of GULLIVER'S TRAVELS is in the works... The National Lampoon film will be co-written by Doug Kenney and Harold Ramis, and will begin filming in the spring or fall (that nails that down)... Robert Thom will be scripting and directing a sequel to a very funny film, DEATH RACE 2000, called DEATHWORLD. It is set in the year 2050 and deals with the selection of the U.S. President and his wife by an assassination elimination contest... 20th CENTURY FOX PRESENTS WORLD WAR II will combine old Movietone newsreel footage with contemporary music of the Beatles, Rod Stewart, etc., performed by contemporary music stars. Its purpose, I surmise, is to be humorous... Columbia Pictures TV and ABC have reached agreement on the shooting of a new pilot called TABETHA, featuring a grown up version of Samantha's daughter on BEWITCHED... Jackson Bostwick, kicked off the SHAZAM! TV show over salary demands, has taken Filmation Associates to court for not allowing him to appear in public dressed as Captain Marvel, and lost his bid for a restraining order. Holy Moley... Everybody knows by now that Jerry Siegel and Joe Shuster have settled with Warner Communications for $20,000 a year for life, with provisions for their families upon their deaths as well as medical benefits. Their names will again appear on the splash pages of SUPERMAN stories as creators, as they did up until 1947. But surprise! They'll be appearing as guests at the SUPERMAN BIRTHDAY DC CON, at the end of this month... The director of the upcoming WATERSHIP DOWN will be award-winning animator John Hubley... Francis Ford Coppola will film HAMMETT, from a novel by private detective-turned-writer Joe Ceres, about private-detective-turned-writer, Dashiell Hammett, who investigates a friend's murder... And GOOD HEAVENS, the Carl Reiner comedy that has been around for half a year, will finally debut in March, when the hour occupied by the novelization of RICH MAN, POOR MAN is completed.

Some of the subjects I brought up last time have been answered. Both Brad Barnes and Mike Gold wrote in regard to John Cleese's absence on the ABC MONTY PYTHON Specials. Whereas Brad quotes SEVENTEEN Magazine as saying that Cleese left the group in 1974 to work on his own, Mike says this: "You may have noticed his name in the writing credits on the ABC broadcasts. Cleese has always had something of an ambivalent attitude towards performing with the Python Company -- he does not like the rigors of relating to an audience. As I recall, he did perform on the DRURY LAN LIVE album, and he is expected to tour with Python when they play New York this spring. And, of course, he did appear in the HOLY GRAIL film. He did not do too much promotion work for either the TV show, when it first hit the states, nor for the film. Python is not an exclusive society -- it is, at best, an on-again, off-again company. If not for the success of the reruns in the U.S., they probably would have disbanded entirely. Eric Idle had his own summer replacement series -- I believe on ITV -- in 1974; others have worked independently as well. I also further believe MONTY PYTHON currently incorporates more individuals than the familiar six. Graham Chapman shared the Python by-line with something of an unknown in VARIETY's anniversary issue last week." MONTY PYTHON must also include Carole Cleveland, who has appeared on most of the albums, the film and most of the episodes I've seen. But I'm glad to find out that John Cleese's absence is not permanent. Mike also mentions that Time-Life, who syndicates the series (and not just to PBS stations) has not offered any of the 1974 (fourth season) episodes to anyone except ABC, and may not do so for awhile. There are only 39 episodes available at the moment.

And Kim Draheim mentions that there were indeeed see-through blouses in the pre-Rudy Geinrich era, as his mother owned some in the '40s. I know what he's referring to, as I recall them, but what you saw then and what we see now, were quite different... As I recall, it was Klinger's fantasy of what he saw Hotlips in, so I wouldn't try to guess whether he meant the more modest style or not.

-Rona Blabbit

The Writer's Side

Q: If you had the power to do anything you wanted in the comics industry, what changes would you make?

ARCHIE GOODWIN: The first thing I'd do is

banish all the current distribution set-ups and start from scratch. Beyond that, I can't imagine. With a new approach to distribution you could think in terms of new formats for comics and start tailoring them for particular audiences instead of producing for the wider mass sales. You could possibly have comics that are right for the bookstores, comics that are right for colleges, and comics that are right for children and mass sales.

JOHN DAVID WARNER: My answer is going to be a repeat of Archie's. My concerns being the distribution set-up, the future of packaging, experimenting with packagaes, the artistic integrity of the field (while trying not to forget that you are trying to make money) and just public relations for the industry, I don't think I have any solid answers at the moment. But if I had the power, that would be my prime motivation -- to get the answers.

ROGER SLIFER: Distribution, I guess. I'd improve it so that comic book creators would only have to take the blame for what they are truly responsible for -- the quality of the books.

MARV WOLFMAN: Assuming that I don't have the power to change reader habits or distributors whims, that leaves only package and editorial to play around with. I would create a wider degree of variation of comics -- mixing straight, funny, adventure, all the others. However, since you can find most of that stuff today spread over all the companies, we must out playing with editorial (outside of contantly striving to improve the package, of course), and attempt playing around with different sizes, shapes and stuffs. Assuming I can change reader habits, it would be to open up the close-mindedness amongst fans towards things other than super-heroes. You know, there can be great stuff in funny animals, straight humor things, drama without good vs. evil themes, and though I may get kicked out of comicdom by fans --romance books. Man, can good things be done with that topic -- and things I believe could sell quite well. Also, assuming I can create a readership out of nothing (poof, you're a malted) I would seriously want to try a line of adult books, and that doesn't mean adolescent sex and violence, friends.

JIM SHOOTER: I think there's room for all types of comic books, from the far-out intellectual to SPIDEY SUPER STORIES. But I think the middle-ground has shifted away from where it should be. I think in order to allow us to experiment, we have to reestablish the the bulk of our line as better entertainment.

SCOTT EDELMAN: I'd say that the two areas I'd change would be in the rights given to all creative personnel by the company. The other is the way comics are promoted. At the moment, reprint rights and copyrights are given lackadaisically by the companies when it's good for them. I feel that the creators would put more love and devotion into their work if they saw it more as an investment for the future than a way to simply pay for tomorrow's dinner. Promotion-wise, companies advertise calendars, conventions, etc., without actually promoting the comic books themselves. A bit of advertising devoted simply to putting comic books in the minds of those who know so little about them, and to increasing the sales of the comic books themselves would benefit the comics industry more than the sale of an additional Spider-Man Squirt Gun.

MARTY PASKO: I would change the way in which free-lancers are paid for their services. I assume that with this mythical power would come some sort of omniscience that would enable me to figure out how to determine the rights of each individual contributor to what is essentially a collaborative process. That would enable me to set up detailed contracts for each job so that the free-lancer could be 100% certain of the rights he is selling and that he is selling them in a manner that is legally binding both on himself, and on the companies, thus eliminating the back-of-the-check waiver of claim to subsidiary rights (second printings, adaptations to other media, etc.). I would also from two guilds: one for comic book writers and free-lance editors, and another for comic book artists and technical craftsmen such as colorists and letterers.

STEVE SKEATES: Change? Oh... my page rate, probably. I don t know. There's so many things I'd like to change I can't see the possibility of narrowing them down to one or two. The main changes have to come in distribution, advertising. I would like to change the aim of comic books, the audience one shoots for, but for that there would have to be a change in distribution.

LEN WEIN: Believe it or not, not much. All I would change would be the length of the book. I wish the books were longer. 17 pages a month is not enough. Twenty-five would be a nice, comfortable size.

Marvel Coming Comics

DAREDEVIL (134, June). DD and The Torpedo team-up to battle The Chameleon in There's Trouble In New York City... That's Trouble With A 'T' and That Rhymes With D' and That Stands for Daredevil" by Marv Wolfman, Bob Brown and Jim Mooney. (3/2)

IRON FIST (5, June). Iron Fist meets Alan Cavanaugh, an ex-terrorist who wants to quit but his friends won't let him in "When Slays The Scimitar" by Chris Claremont, John Byrne and Frank Chiaramonte. (3/2)

MARVEL PREMIERE (30, June). The Liberty Legion winds up their battle with The Invaders and The Red Skull in Yankee Stadium with "Hey Ma! They're Blitzin' The Bronx!" by Roy Thomas, Don Heck and Vince Colletta. (3/2)

SUPER-VILLAIN TEAM-UP (6, June). The Fantastic Four invades Latveria to save the Sub-Mariner from Dr. Doom's influence in Prisoner ' by Steve Englehart, Herb Trimpe and Jack Abel. (3/2)

MARVEL DOUBLE FEATURE (16, June). Reprinted from #92 of TALES OF SUSPENSE is

Captain America in "Before My Eyes, Nick Fury Died ' by Stan Lee, Jack Kirby and Joe Sinnott. Iron Man appears in "At The Mercy Of The Maggia" from #99, by Archie Goodwin, Gene Colan and Johnny Craig. (3/2)

KA-ZAR (16, June). Aliens from another dimension led by Klaw try for a Conquest Of The Savage Land by Doug Moench and Val Mayerik. (3/2)

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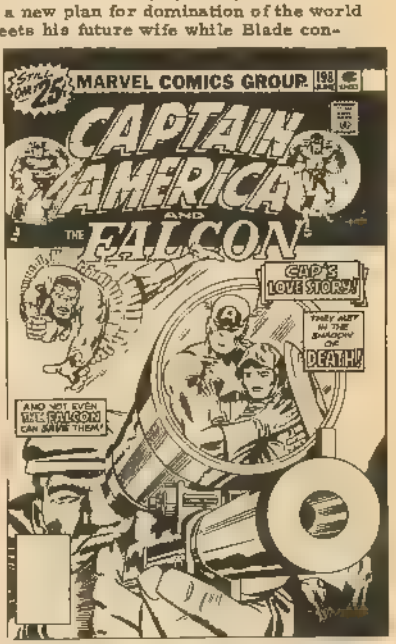
SON OF SATAN (4, June). SOS begins a new storyline as Daimon becomes involved with a new university and a new menace in "Cloud Of Witness by John David Warner, Craig Russell and Sonny Trinidad. (3/2)

TOMB OF DRACULA (45, June). Dracula forms a new plan for domination of the world and meets his future wife while Blade con-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fronts Hannibal King in "Crossfire by Marv Wolfman, Gene Colan and Tom Palmer. (3/2)

MARVEL TWO-IN-ONE (16, June). The Thing and K-Zar meet to battle dinosaurs and Volcanus, a new villain, in "Into The Savage Land" by Bill Mantlo, Ron Wilson and Dan Adkins. (3/2)

WEIRD WONDER TALES (16, June). (3/2)

KID COLT OUTLAW (207, June). (3/2)

TWO-GUN KID (130, June). (3/2)

DOC SAVAGE (4, April). Doc follows a trail of murder that leads him to the back alleyways of Casablanca and the "Ghost Pirates From Beyond" who are fighting to get a centuries-old treasure that holds the fate of Morocco. Doug Moench and Tony DeZuniga are the perpetrators, with the first eight pages of the fifty-five page story pencilled by Marie Severin. Cover is by Ken Barr. (3/2)

THE DEADLY HANDS OF KUNG FU (23, April). Iron Fist stars in Bridge of Sorrow, Bridge of Pain" by Chris Claremont and Rudy Nebres, while the Sons of the Tiger discover that "Revenge Is The Jack Of Hearts in the latest chapter by Bill Mantlo, Gil Kane and Rico Rival. The inside front cover is by Nebres, the front cover is by Ken Barr. (3/2)

PLANET OF THE APES (20, May). Terror

On The Planet of The Apes continues with "Society Of The Psychedrome" by Doug Moench and Tom Sutton. Chapter 5 of CONQUEST is by Moench and Alfredo Alcala. Cover is by Malcolm McN. (3/2)

THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN (157, June). Spider-Man tracks Aunt May and Doc Ock to Brookhaven labs and J. Jonah Jameson s new secretary is introed in 'Hammerhead Is Out by Len Wein, Ross Andru and Mike Esposito. (3/9)

CAPTAIN AMERICA (198, June). Cap meets the daughter of the man who created the A-Bomb in "Captain America's Love Story ' by Jack Kirby and Frank Giacoia. (3/9)

THOR (248, June). Thor returns from his African adventure to find a wounded Balder, so travels to Asgard and attempts to gain entry via The Rainbow Bridge in "There Shall Come... Revolution" by Len Wein, with John Buscema returning to full pencils and Tony DeZuniga inking. (3/9)

MASTER OF KUNG FU (41, June). A spy infiltrates the service and Shang Chi meets an armored kung fu expert called Shock Wave in Clock Of Shattered Time ' by Doug Moench,

Paul Gulacy and Tom Sutton. (3/9)

DOCTOR STRANGE (15, June). Dr. Strange rescues a woman from a burning building and has to face up to the fact that he is the only one who survived the destruction of the world and that everyone else is just a reconstruction in 'Where There s Smoke... by Steve Englehart, Gene Colan and Tom Palmer. (3/9)

MARVEL SPOTLIGHT (28, June). Presenting Moon Knight, most recently from WEREWOLF BY NIGHT, battling Conqueror Lord in "Moon Knight by Doug Moench and Don Perlin. (3/9)

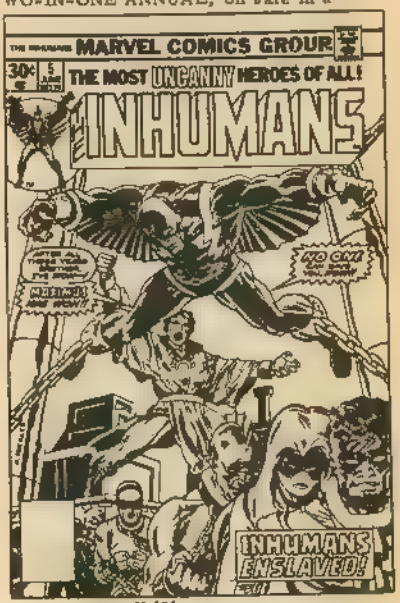
THE GHOST RIDER (18, June). Ghost Rider confronts Challenger in a race to save his soul in The Salvation Run by Tony Isabella, Frank Robbins and Vince Colletta. (3/9)

THE INHUMANS (5, June). Maximus has taken over the Great Refuge and half of The Inhumans are rounded up to be sent to the Kree homeworld to fight in a war in Voices From Galaxy's End by Doug Moench, Gil Kane and Vince Colletta. (3/9)

MARVEL CHILLERS (5, June). Tigra meets The Rat Pack and The Red Wolf returns from whereever he's been in ' Cat And Mouse" by Tony Isabella, Wil Meugniot and Vince Colletta. (3/9)

THE MIGHTY MARVEL WESTERN (45, June). Kid Colt, Rawhide Kid and Two-Gun Kid are reprinted. (3/9)

FANTASTIC FOUR ANNUAL (11, June). Due to an accident in time, the Nazis have won WWII and so the FF must go back in time to fix things up -- where they meet the Liberty Legion in "And Now Then... The Invaders ' by Roy Thomas, John Buscema and Sam Grainger. This story continues in the MARVEL TWO-IN-ONE ANNUAL, on sale in a couple of months. (3/9)



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IRON MAN ANNUAL (3, June). IM meets Man-Thing, a slew of Steve Gerber characters, and a brand new form for the Molecule Man, who tries to resurrect Citrusville in ' More Or Less... the Molecule Man by Steve Gerber, Sal Buscema and Jack Abel. (3/9)

THE INCREDIBLE HULK (200, June). The Glen Talbot sub-plot is tied up and a myriad of guest-stars visit the Hulk including such

people as Silver Surfer, Mandarin, Abomination, Rhino, Missing Link, etc., in "An Intruder In The Mind" by Len Wein, Sal Buscema and Joe Staton. (3/16)

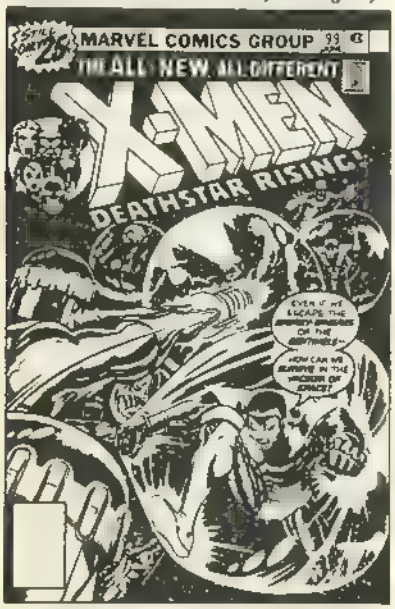
THE AVENGERS (148, June). It's The Squadron Supreme vs. The Avengers in "20,000 Leagues Under Justice" by Steve Englehart, George Perez and Vince Colletta. (3/16)

CONAN THE BARBARIAN (63, June). Featuring: The battle between Conan and Amra -- with only one victor, in "Dweller In Darkness" by Roy Thomas, John Buscema and Steve Gan. (3/16)

THE DEFENDERS (36, June). Valkyrie is in jail; Nighthawk gets his brain back; and The Defenders and the new Red Guardian fight the Plant Man in "A Garden Of Earthly Demise" by Steve Gerber, Sal Buscema and Klaus Janson. (3/16)

THE CHAMPIONS (6, June). Out of the conclusion of the Champions-Rampage battle comes a new leader for The Champs in "Mad Dogs And Businessmen" by Tony Isabella, George Tuska and Vince Colletta. (3/16)

THE X-MEN (99, June). X-Men in space vs. The Sentinels in "Death Star, Rising" by



Chris Claremont, Dave Cockrum and Frank Chiaramonte. (3/16)

BLACK GOLIATH (3, June). The L. A. branch of Stark Industries is invaded by a new baddie called Vulcan in "Dance To The Murder" by Chris Claremont, George Tuska and Vince Colletta. (3/16)

POWER MAN (32, June). Power Man comes to the rescue of a Queens family being attacked by a bigot named Wildfire in "Wildfire, The Fire This Time" by Don McGregor, Frank Robbins and Vince Colletta. (3/16)

MARVEL TALES (68, June). SPIDEY #87 yields this month's reprint: "Unmasked At Last" by Stan Lee, John Romita and Jim Mooney. (3/16)

FANTASTIC FOUR (171, June). Gorr, The Golden Gorilla returns triumphantly in "But First, The Golden Gorilla" by Roy Thomas, George Perez and Joe Sinnott. (3/23)

IRON MAN (87, June). Presenting the origin of The Blizzard (it probably has nothing to do with Cumulo-Nimbus clouds or Low Pressure systems) is "The Icy Hand Of Death" by Bill Mantlo, George Tuska and Vince Colletta. (3/23)

MARVEL TEAM-UP (46, June). Spidey's trying to get back to the 20th Century but doesn't quite make it, instead landing in the world of Deathlok in "Am I Now, Or Have I Ever Been..." by Bill Mantlo, Sal Buscema and Mike Esposito. (3/23)

MARVEL PRESENTS (5, June). The Guardians' ship is being repaired on a planet much like Earth of the '70s and they find that it's a "Planet Of The Absurd" in this latest tale by Steve Gerber and Al Milgrom. (3/23)

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WARLOCK (13, June). Warlock returns to Earth only to meet a most unusual foe: a parapalegic who has been in a coma for years in "Star Thief" by Jim Starlin and Steve Leialoha. (3/23)

MARVEL ADVENTURE (4, June). Daredevil stars in "Enter: The Leap Frog" from DD #25 by Stan Lee, Gene Colan and Frank Giacoia. (3/23)

ADVENTURES ON THE PLANET OF THE APES (6, June). The conclusion of the first

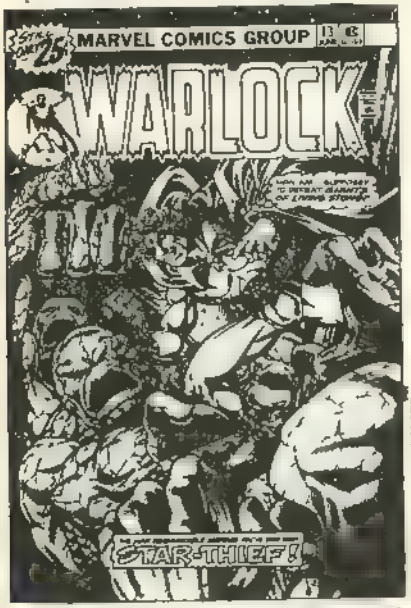
movie adaptation, "The Secret" by Doug Moench, George Tuska and Mike Esposito, is reprinted from POTA #6. (3/23)

SPIDEY SUPER STORIES (17, June). (3/23)

National Coming Comics

OUR ARMY AT WAR (293, June). Easy Co. joins forces with a British outfit in "It Figures" by Bob Kanigher, Joe Kubert and Frank Redondo. Norman Maurer contributes a Medal of Honor story to round out the issue. The cover is by Joe Kubert. (3/2)

JUSTICE LEAGUE OF AMERICA (131, June). A cascade of credit cards cause considerable catastrophe unless the costumed cronies can capture "The Beasts Who Thought Like Men"



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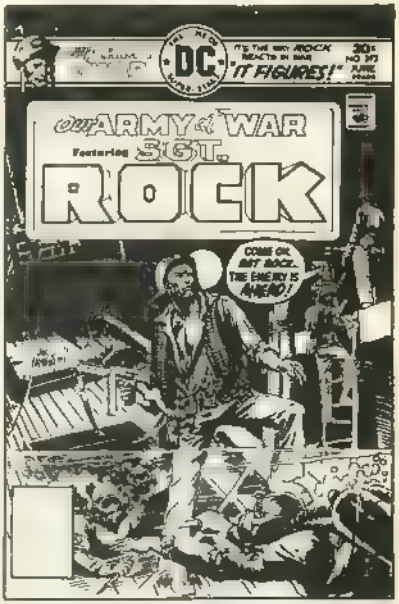
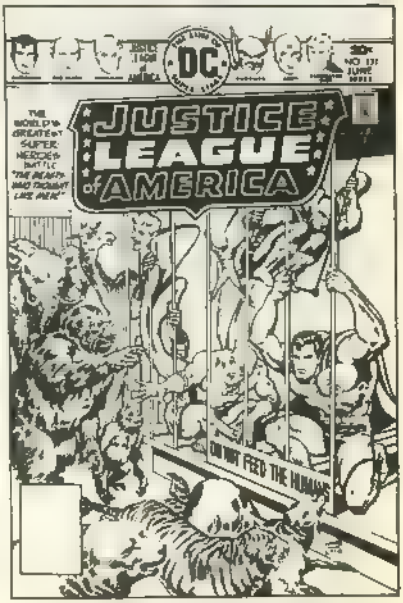
in a tale by Gerry Conway, Dick Dillin and Frank McLaughlin. The cover is by Ernie Chua. (3/2)

KAMANDI, THE LAST BOY ON EARTH (42, June). Kamandi continues the Hollywood Hounds conflict whil meeting a lot of his old friends in "Gunfight At Coyote Corral" by Gerry Conway, Chic Stone and Mike Royer. The cover is by Jose Garcia-Lopez. (3/2)

THE SUPERMAN FAMILY (177, June-July). Supergirl is confronted by a man who claims that it is his destiny to marry her in "Bride Of The Stars" by Gary Bates, Elliot Maggin and Kurt Schaffenberger. Lois and Jimmy are represented with these reprints: "When Lois and Lana Were Brides" by Kurt Schaffenberger, and "Jimmy Olsen s Secret Love by Curt Swan and George Klein. The cover is by Schaffenberger. (3/4)

SWAMP THING (23, June-July). Considerable change in this issue with a new logo and new writer as well as new villains, Thrud-





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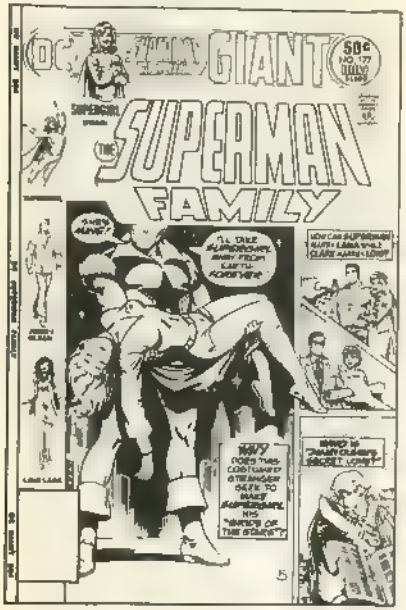
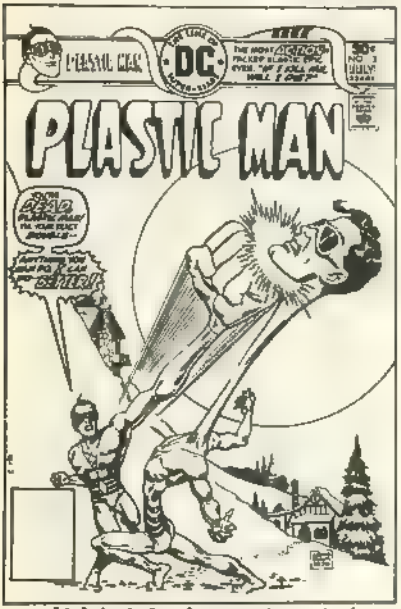
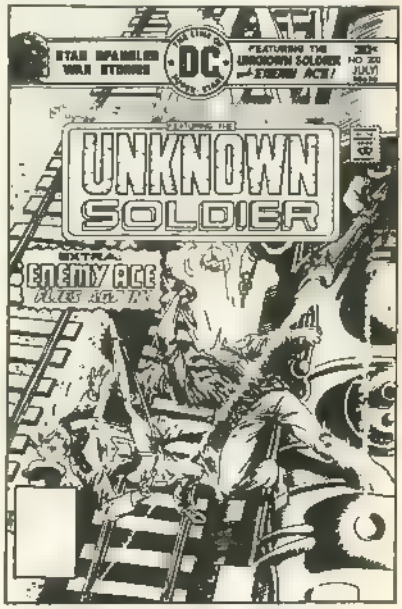
vang and Sabre, not to mention the reappearance of Dr. Alec Holland, all in "Rebirth" by Gerry Conway and Nestor Redondo. The cover is by Ernie Chua. (3/4)

LIMITED COLLECTORS' EDITION (C-44, June-July). BATMAN is featured in this issue which includes four mystery stories: "Paint A Picture Of Peril" by Denny O'Neil, Neal Adams and Dick Giordano; "Castle With Wall To Wall Danger" by John Broome, Carmine Infantino and Joe Giella; "The Deep-Sea Diver Mystery" by Dick Sprang and "Trade Marks Of Crime" by Jerry Robinson. Special features include layouts of the Wayne Foundation Building and the Wayne penthouse, designed by Carmine Infantino and rendered by Terry Austin. The cover is a painting by Wally Fax. (3/4)





LIMITED COLLECTORS' EDITION (C-45, June-July). SECRET ORIGINS OF SUPER-VILLAINS in the theme of this one and it stars Wonder Woman vs. "The Cheetah" by Charles Moulton and H.G. Peter; The Flash vs. "The Master of Mirrors," Mirror Master, in a story by John Broome, Carmine Infantino and Joe Giella, Superboy vs. the young Mxyzptlk in ' The Ghost Of Jor-El by George Papp; and Batman investigates "The Secret Life Of Catwoman" by Dick Sprang. The cover is by Dick Giordano. (3/4)



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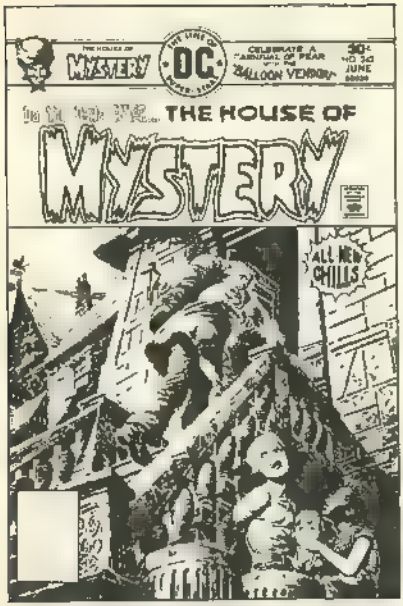
DC SPECIAL (22, June-July). New story and art are featured here for the first time as THE MUSKETEERS debuts. The four encounter "A Monster Met On The Road To Calis" in this story edited by Murray Boltinoff, written by Denny O'Neil, drawn by George Moltineri and inked by Dick Giordano and the Continuity group. Robin Hood reprints are the back up with "Battle Of The Kites" by Bob Haney and Joe Kubert, and The Secret Of Robin Hood's Name" by Haney, Ross Andru and Mike Esposito. The cover is by Luis Dominguez. (3/9)

STAR SPANGLED WAR STORIES (200, June-July). Back to bi-monthly, this issue features the third part of his adventure with Mlle. Marie: Death Ride" by David Michelinie and Gerry Talaoc. The backup is Joe Kubert's first new art since '74, an ENEMY ACE story. The cover is by Kubert. (3/9)



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HOUSE OF MYSTERY (242, June). Two tales of mystery in this issue, "The Balloon Vender" by Mike Fleisher and Frank Robbins, and "Blood Money" by Jack Oleck and Jess Jodloman. The cover is by Luis Dominguez. (3/9)

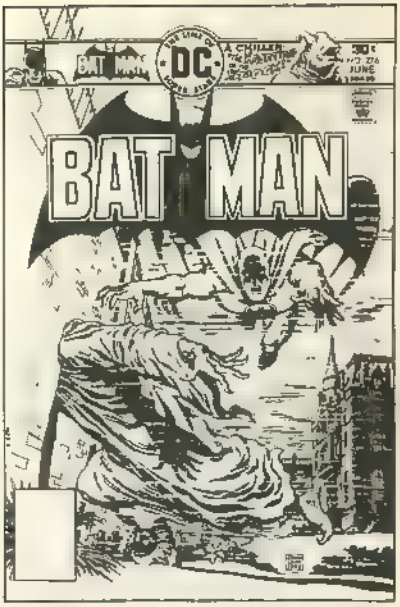
SUPERMAN (300, June). This issue's story is based on the supposition that Superbaby arrived on Earth in 1976 and thus becomes "Superman, 2001 in a story by Cary Bates, Elliot Maggin, Curt Swan, Bob Oksner, Julie Schwartz, Nelson Bridwell and Bob Rozakis. The cover is by Oksner. (3/11)

BATMAN (276, June). The villainous escape artist, The Spook, returns and needs Batman's help in "The Haunting Of The Spook" by David Reed and Ernie Chua. The cover is by Chua. (3/11)

METAL MEN (46, June-July). After last issue's destruction, the robots have to be rebuilt and they are, except that Tina now is in love with the whole band in "The Chemo Conspiracy" by Gerry Conway and Walt Simonson. The cover is by Dick Giordano. (3/11)

KOBRA (3, June-July). The final try-out issue features the end of the Kobra-Solaris battle and more of the mysterious Natalie in a story called "Vengeance In Ultra Violet" by Marty Pasko, Keith Giffen, Dick Giordano and Terry Austin. The cover is by Ernie Chua. (3/11)

DC SUPER STARS (4, June). Aquaman and Aqualad star in this issue with the reprints being "Between Two Dooms" by Bob Haney, and Nick Cardy) and "Some Call It Noise" by Steve Skeates, George Tuska and Nick Cardy, an Aqualad story. The cover and intro page are by Jim Aparo. (3/16)



THE BRAVE AND THE BOLD (127, June). Wildcat teams up with Batman again (this is number 5) in "The Deadman's Quadrangle" by Bob Haney and Jim Aparo. The cover is by Aparo. (3/16)

THE FLASH (242, June). Flash must find a new gang of crooks who pull their robberies in an entirely new way plus Iris' deep dark

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secret is revealed in "The Charge Of The Electric Gang" by Cary Bates, Irv Novick and Frank McLaughlin. Plus another chapter in The Ravagers tale stars Green Lantern in "All Creatures Great And Small" by Denny O'Neil, Mike Grell and Tex Blaisdell. The cover is by Ernie Chua. (3/16)

WONDER WOMAN (224, June-July). To bring this comic into accord with the recent WW TV show, they've reintroduced Steve Trevor and are now establishing Paradise Island's location as being in the Bermuda Triangle in "Wonder Woman Versus the United States" by Marty Pasko, Curt Swan and Vince Colletta. The cover is by Ernie Chua. (3/18)

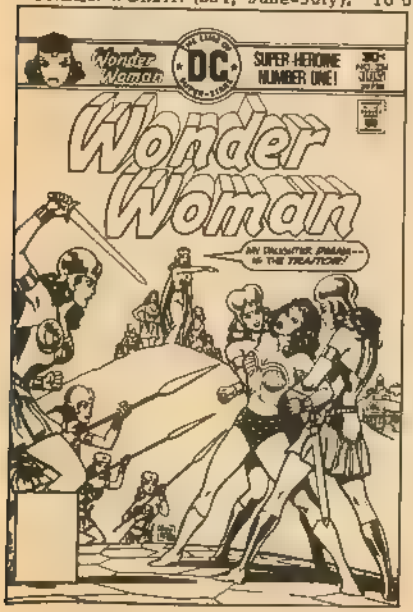
SUPERBOY (217, June). Tyroc must defeat a heretofore unrevealed villain who penetrates Legion headquarters to gain admittance to the club in "The Secret Villain The World Never Knew" by Cary Bates and Mike Grell. The cover is by Grell. (3/18)

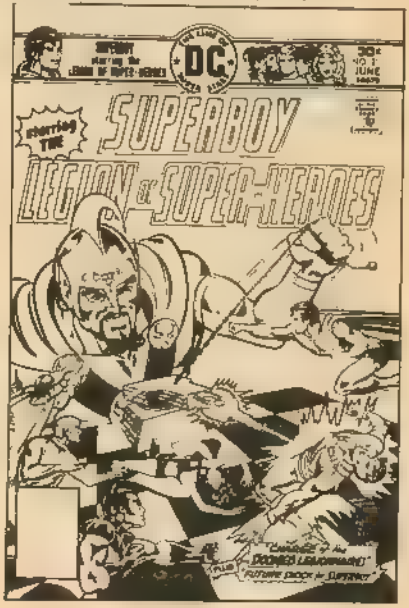
PLASTIC MAN (13, June-July). Ya see, it's like this: Robby Reed takes his Dial H For Hero device and twirls himself into a duplicate Plastic Man and there the problems arise. "If I Kill Me, Will I Die?" is by Steve Skeates, Jane Aruns and Mary Skrenes with art by Ramona Fradon and Bob Smith. The cover is by Ernie Chua. (3/18)

RICHARD DRAGON, KUNG FU FIGHTER (9, June). The Dragon is sent to San Lorenzo by Barney Ling while Ben and Lady Shiva fend off a plot against them in "The Preying Mantis!" by Denny O'Neil and Ric Estrada. The cover is by Dick Giordano. (3/23)

HERCULES UNBOUND (5, June-July). Herc and Hunter Blood square off in "Bloody Showdown" by Gerry Conway, Jose Garcia-Lopez and Wally Wood. Details linking the book with KAMANDI are also revealed. Cover is by Garcia-Lopez. (3/23)

WORLD'S FINEST COMICS (238, June). Superman and Batman must battle a menace from Krypton in a new story by Bob Haney and Lee Elias and John Calnan. The cover is by Ernie Chua and Calnan. (3/23)





THE WITCHING HOUR (64, June-July). The stories for this issue were not yet decided as we went to press. (3/25)

TARZAN (250, June). Joe Orlando takes over as editor and a new approach to the books is taken with an adaptation of "Tarzan The Untamed" by Gerry Conway, Jose Garcia-Lopez and Rudy Florese. The cover is by Garcia-Lopez and Ricardo Villagran. (3/25)

SHAZAM! (24, Spring). The Captain Marvel reprint is 'Sivana Saves Captain Marvel" by Otto Binder and C. C. Beck, while Captain Marvel Jr. stars in "The Days Of Robin Hood" by Bud Thompson. The cover is by Kurt Schaffenberger. (3/30)

G. I. COMBAT (191, June). The Haunted Tank flaunts danger as they become a "Decoy For Death" by Bob Kanigher and Sam Glanzman. Plus Secrets Of The O.S.S. features "Target For Tonight -- Me" by Kanigher and Ric Estrada. The cover is by Luis Dominguez. (3/30)

ACTION COMICS (460, June). Carb-Brak, an alien who cannot live on his own world because of an allergy, comes to Earth but finds himself similarly affected by Superman in "Superman, You'll Be The Death Of Me Yet" by Cary Bates, Curt Swan and Tex Blaisdell. The backup features Mr. Mxyzptlk and Pete Ross' son Jonathan in "Welcome Home To Mxyzpolis" by Elliot Maggin and Kurt Schaffenberger. The cover is by Bob Oksner. (3/30)

DETECTIVE COMICS (460, June). A new villain named Captain Stingaree arrives and claims to know Batman's secret in "Slow Down -- And Die! by Bob Rozakis, Mike Uslan and Ernie Chua. The backup feature reintroduces TIM TRENCH, PRIVATE INVESTIGATOR (from WONDER WOMAN) in "The Cold-Fire Caper" by Denny O Neil, Pablo Marcos and Al Milgrom. The cover is by Chua. (3/30)

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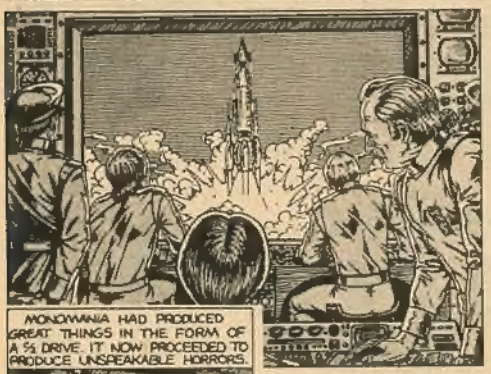
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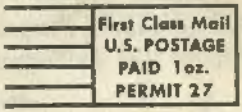

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